

all ranks, and I've been told if you don't have an endpoint to a strategy, you have no strategy.

I hope Mr. Obama will keep his word and start in June of 2011 to downsize the military in Afghanistan because, Mr. Speaker, it breaks my heart to stand on the floor and to show a beautiful young couple, and yet the husband was worn out and tired. In fact, the title of the article says, "A predictable suicide at Camp Lejeune: A doctor warned that mental health care for violent, disturbed marines was inadequate. Sgt. Tom Bagosy proved it."

Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of representing Camp Lejeune and Cherry Point and Seymour Johnson Air Force base, and what I would like to continue to say before I close is we thank you in the military and your families. You have done a magnificent job for this country. But those of us who make policy, Mr. Speaker, we need to understand and develop and demand an endpoint to the strategy because it's not fair and it's not right to wear out our military and its equipment.

So, Mr. Speaker, as I do and have many times, I will close this way: I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I ask God in his loving arms to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. And I will ask God to please bless the House and Senate, that we will do what is right in the eyes of God for this country, including our military. And I will ask God to please bless the President of the United States, Mr. Obama; give him wisdom and strength to do what is right in the eyes of God for his people. And three times I will ask, God, please, God, please, God, please continue to bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### BP'S RESPONSIBILITY TO SOUTH FLORIDA COMMUNITIES CONTINUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, last week, as we know, BP announced that it had capped the oil well, and that for the first time in more than 80 days oil had stopped gushing into the

Gulf of Mexico. While last week's announcement was cause for relief among many, I have since urged cautious optimism. Much work remains to be done to address the worst environmental disaster that this country has seen in recent memory.

BP is still responsible for ensuring that every last drop of oil is removed from the gulf. BP still has a financial responsibility to those residents in the gulf coast, particularly in my congressional district of the Florida Keys, who remain financially devastated from the public perception, however false it may be, of tar ball-covered beaches and oil-soaked fish.

Despite promises of improvement, however, the BP claims process has not improved. I support legislation introduced by my friend, Congressman CHARLIE MELANCON, to tax-exempt BP claims checks. It is the least we can do for those small business owners who continue to suffer to this day, mom and pop fishing charters. They must provide years' worth of financial data in order to prove the possibility of economic injury as a result of the spill.

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Of course, this data does not truly explain the current hardship. For years, Keys fishermen have struggled with hurricanes, tropical storms, unnecessary fishing closures, and a sluggish tourist economy. This year, 2010, was supposed to represent the light at the end of the tunnel. Unfortunately, the gulf oil spill has dashed those hopes. Charter boat captains in the Keys have lost more than half of their businesses this summer due to the oil spill perception.

My constituent, an Islamorada charter boat captain, Larry Wren, was denied financial compensation by BP. Captain Wren provided all the necessary tax documents, proof of cancellations, and even his trip logs from the past few years. After being informed that he was eligible for assistance, BP claims officials have reversed their position. BP says it will no longer pay the claim because oil has yet to reach the Florida Keys' shoreline, if it ever will.

I say shame on BP. BP must be held to task. The company's responsibility to all financially impacted gulf coast residents and businesses will not go away once the relief well is completed.

Now, earlier today, I voted on legislation to increase Federal research on the potential hazards posed by technologies used to counter the oil spill. I have long voiced my concerns about the use of chemical dispersants in such a sensitive marine ecosystem. BP contends that the chemical it is using to break down the oil is safe, but the fact remains that this dispersant has never been used in such vast quantities.

Keys commercial fishermen, whose season kicks off later this year, are also concerned about the long-term consequences of dispersants on the overall health of the fishery. Members

of the environmental community are also worried about the potential harm caused by these chemicals on our already fragile coral reefs.

As BP works toward a permanent fix to the leak in the Gulf of Mexico, it is essential that Congress and all Federal agencies continue to place pressure on this oil giant to address both the environmental and the financial aspects of this disaster.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SABLON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### SAVING THE ICONIC AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS, THE AUTO DEALERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, about a year ago, both General Motors and Chrysler went through a government orchestrated bankruptcy in an effort to save these iconic American manufacturers. I firmly believe that the survival of these companies was then and is today vital to our national economy as well as to our national security.

While I am very thankful that these companies are coming back strong, I do have serious questions over steps that were taken, most importantly, the shuttering of thousands of car dealerships across the Nation and the elimination of countless jobs that were produced in those auto dealerships. I didn't understand, when these bankruptcies were moving forward, how the elimination of thousands of dealerships, who are really the customers of the auto companies, would help to provide any savings to the bottom line for General Motors or Chrysler. I also did not understand how the arbitrary elimination of thousands of profitable small businesses and the elimination of tens of thousands of good-paying American jobs were in the best interest of our Nation or in line with the stated desire of this administration to protect and to create jobs.

Based on a recent report that was just released this past Sunday, it seems now that the inspector general of the TARP program, the Troubled Asset Relief Program, is also asking these same